Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00980 122330Z

70
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01

SIL-01 LAB-04 OPIC-03 XMB-02 NEA-10 (ISO) W
---------- 024761
P 122001Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9020

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0980

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV AC
SUBJ: ANTIGUA: NEWS STORY FEATURES WIO SALE

REF: BTN 0898

1. REUTERS WIRE STORY DATELINED ST. JOHN'S 6/11/75 QUOTES WEST INDIES OIL (WIO) SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT GOA HAS MADE OFFER TO BUY OUT US-OWNED WIO REFINERY LOCATED THERE. ACCORDING TO REUTERS, WIO SPOKESMAN PUT REFINERY VALUE AT US$80 MILLION BUT DECLINED TO DISCLOSE THAT THE ARTICLE STATED THAT WIO REFINERY MANAGER EUGENE BERTRAND TOLD EMPLOYEES THAT WIO SUPPORTED GOA VIEW THAT CONCESSION AGREEMENT, WHICH GIVES WIO SOLE REFINING AND BUNKERING RIGHTS PLUS TAX AND DUTY EXEMPTIONS, CONFLICTED WITH NATIONAL GROWTH OBJECTIVES.

2. FOLLOWING WERE REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED BY WIO AS ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS: (A) SALE OF EQUITY INTEREST TO GOA OR OTHERS FOR CASH; (B) JOINING WITH GOA OR OTHERS TO EXPAND REFINERY'S CAPACITY IN EFFORT TO MAKE OPERATIONS PROFITABLE; (C) JOINING WITH OTHER PARTIES WITH ACCESS TO CRUDE SUPPLIES AND MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRIDGE 00980 122330Z

MAKE OPERATION VIABLE. NATOMAS (US PARENT) WILLING TO RESTRUCTURE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

CONCESSION AGREEMENT IN THIS LATTER CASE.

3. COMMENT: REUTERS STORY APPARENTLY CONTAINS NOTHING NEW. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, SENIOR NATOMAS EXECUTIVES ARE DUE IN ANTIGUA IN MID-JULY TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH GOA AND WE EXPECT NO MOVEMENT BEFORE THAT TIME. WE WERE A BIT TAKEN BACK BY REUTERS CLAIM THAT WIO SPOKESMAN AGREED THAT CONCESSION PACT CONFLICTED WITH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES. GIVEN REFINERY'S MORE THAN SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ANTIGUA ECONOMY AND FACT THAT ANTIGUA'S INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CLIMATE IS HARDLY LIKELY TO DRAW IN NEW INVESTORS, IT WOULD SEEM VERY MUCH IN INTERESTS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO KEEP WIO FUNCTIONING.

4. WIO MANAGER BERTRAND FULLY APPRECIATES BASIC POLITICAL NATURE OF PRESENT DIFFICULTY. BERTRAND, HOWEVER, MAINTAINS THAT GOA IS UNLIKELY TO BE PERSUADED BY RATIONAL ARGUMENT SO LONG AS ST. HILAIRE HAS MAJOR VOICE IN OIL MATTERS. HE IS THUS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUTCOME OF JULY TALKS.
BRITTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, SALES, PRESS COMMENTS, REFINERIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRIDGE00980
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750205-1165
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750654/aaaabwti.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BTN 0898
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTIGUA: NEWS STORY FEATURES WIO SALE
TAGS: EINV, ENRG, AC, WEST INDIES OIL CO, NATOMAS OIL CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006